



Maryland  
Green Registry  
**MEMBER**

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

## Izaak Walton League of America Rockville Chapter



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[www.iwlar.org](http://www.iwlar.org)  
Conservation and Recreational Park  
Member since June 2013

### Management and Leadership

#### Environmental Policy Statement

*The Izaak Walton League of America Rockville Chapter (Chapter) is part of one of the nation's earliest conservation groups, the Izaak Walton League of America (League), whose mission is "to conserve, restore and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife." The Izaak Walton League of America Rockville Chapter (Chapter) Chapter members pledge to "aid and support in the protection and restoration of America's soil, woods, water and wildlife; to help increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and safeguard public health; to hunt and fish in accordance with the law; to respect the property rights of others; and to further the League's efforts to foster the wise use of all natural resources." The Chapter's motto is "Conservation, Education, Recreation."*

*The IWLA Conservation Policies 2019 Handbook is available online [here](#). "One of the League's most important goals is to ensure that America's natural resources are protected, managed, and used to provide long-term quality of life. Our conservation policies expand on this goal and give it meaning as it applies to a variety of conservation issues."*

*The Chapter promotes sustainability education that addresses lifelong learning, interdisciplinary approaches, multicultural perspectives, partnerships with other organizations, and provides people of all ages opportunities to learn*

*about the stewardship of natural resources. The League promotes common-sense and practical solutions to conservation issues.*



### **Environmental Team**

*The Chapter strives to utilize our resources so that future generations may enjoy our land and its natural resources, as we work to meet the mission of the League to “conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife.” Our Chapter is committed to achieving environmental excellence, to being recognized as an environmental leader within the State of Maryland and among the other League Chapters nationally, and to complying with all Federal, State and Local laws, regulations and other applicable requirements.*

*The Environmental Management System (EMS) committee oversees the impacts of Chapter activities on our 50+ acre property. The EMS committee consists of the Chapter President and the chairs of the Standing Committees that are specified in the Chapter’s By-Laws. Other members provide their input and feedback as well, particularly the recycling committee and the range managers.*

*All Officers and Directors of the Board have responsibility within their individual areas of responsibility for ensuring that the Chapter’s EMS is implemented, and to provide resources to committees to implement the Chapter’s goals. The EMS committee acts to ensure the wise expenditure of Chapter funds as the Chapter works to meet our goals of implementing best practices. The Chapter is committed to achieving environmental excellence and being recognized as an environmental leader within the State of Maryland and among the other Izaak Walton League of America Chapters nationally.*

*Every fall the EMS committee hosts an annual environmental assessment; the aspects and impacts of activities on the Chapter property are evaluated and a risk assessment is considered. Input from Chapter members and leaders is used to identify any new issues and evaluate progress and successes regarding that year’s objectives. Accomplishments are noted and risk assessment, targets and objectives for the upcoming year are established. The recommendations of the EMS Committee are presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed.*

**Annual Environmental Goals**

*The Chapter has established several priority areas that are impacted by Chapter activities.*

- *On the ranges, covers over lead impact areas are maintained and soil pH is monitored. Lime is applied as needed to maintain the target soil pH range of 6.0 - 9.0 result in a lower potential for lead migration via surface water or groundwater to reduce the potential for lead migration via surface water or groundwater.*
- *Throughout the property potential for soil erosion is noted and plans are made and implemented to reduce and correct damage. One example is the installation of a rain garden to capture runoff from the new meeting house.*
- *We generate our own wood chips and firewood from fallen trees.*
- *Electricity and fuel usage are evaluated for opportunities to reduce the Chapter's footprint.*
- *Opportunities to improve Wildlife habitats.*
- *Meet or exceed legal requirements.*
- *Establish a central record keeping system for the EMS.*

**Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

*The Chapter has many programs that promote nature, wildlife and outdoors education including several youth conservation education programs, firearm education courses, shooting sports, monthly speakers and our open house for National Hunting and Fishing Day and outreach programs. The Chapter works cooperatively with community groups, civic organizations, as well as state, and national organizations. Our facilities include hiking trails, a meeting house and a fishing pond for member use. A few of our regular programs and projects are highlighted below.*

- *We have begun to maintain a section of the Greenway Trail between the Seneca State Park and the Waring Viaduct.*
- *The Chapter hosts an open house for [National Hunting and Fishing Day](#) on the third Saturday of September. Members and the public experience many hands-on activities to learn about wildlife, conservation, natural resources, fishing and hunting.*
- *The Chapter sponsors several scouting groups, providing meeting space and camping, hiking and fishing opportunities. Many Eagle Scout and Silver Award projects have contributed to the quality of our outdoor facilities. BSA*

*Troop 1097 installs and maintains wires to protect trees from beavers along Great Seneca Creek.*

- *The Chapter supports the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation and maintains a 'mother tree' orchard of trees with pure native American Chestnut trees for their breeding program.*
- *Chapter members support wildlife by maintaining an apiary, pollinator gardens that provide food and habitats for native bees as well as honey bees and bird boxes.*
- *The Chapter has an active wood duck outreach program and partners with the Maryland Wood Duck Initiative to provide MD DNR with annual nesting records. The Wood Duck Team maintains and monitors over 100 wood duck boxes throughout Montgomery County.*
- *The Chapter has participated in the Alice Ferguson Foundation's annual Potomac Watershed clean-up since 2008. Joint projects have including cleanups with Seneca Creek Watershed Partners and the Friends of Seneca Creek.*
- *The Chapter participates in the [Adopt-a-Road program](#), cleaning Waring Station Road between Clopper Road and the railroad bridge every other month and collecting 42 50-gallon trash bags in 6 months, equivalent to 1,680 lbs. of material at 40 lbs. of trash per bag, including an unopened vodka bottle, cigar clipper and an unopened beer can.*
- *The Chapter monitors Great Seneca Creek using the IWLA Save Our Streams protocols and has a program to loan out equipment for groups wanting to check their own local stream.*



#### **Independently-Audited Environmental Management System**

*The IWLA Rockville Chapter has a draft Environmental Management System Manual in the ISO14001:15 format which is US EPA compliance-focused. The draft is being updated and re-written in 2021.*

### **Waste**



#### **Recycling**

*The Chapter is committed to reducing the use of plastic and recycling whenever feasible. Non-recyclable materials such as fishing line and fishing*

*weights are recovered. Recovered materials from clean-ups are recycled and reused whenever feasible.*

*The wood from fallen trees is left for wildlife habitat, repurposed as firewood, or used as barriers to slow runoff.*

*At our ranges, brass and shotgun wads are collected recycled. Soil liming and covers prevent the migration of lead.*

## **Energy**

### **Renewable Energy**

*Solar power is used where possible and feasible. For example, solar was recently installed on our pavilion and has eliminated the need for a generator to charge the mower battery or power lights at our fishing lake. The aerators in the lake are also powered by solar energy.*

## **Water**

### **Stormwater Management and Site Design**

*The IWLA Rockville Chapter maintains several trails that are designed to minimize erosion runoff for the use of members and their guests. A rain garden installed as an Eagle project continues to function to capture and slow runoff from the roof of our meeting house.*

*Other than the road apron, the Chapter does not have paved surfaces. Runoff from the roof of the meeting house is directed into a rain garden.*

*The Chapter is working on a long-term project to install a silt reduction feature to reduce the amount of sediment that flows into the fishing pond during storm events.*

## **Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities**

- The IWLA Rockville Chapter awards several scholarships each year to college students from Montgomery County Maryland who are pursuing their education in disciplines related to conservation or environmental studies.*

*The IWLA Rockville Chapter is recognized by Montgomery County Public Schools as an approved organization. We provide opportunities for students to get their [Student Service Learning](#) (SSL) hours through outdoor projects, working on conservation activities, monitoring stream quality and more.*

***Profile Updated May 2021***



*Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.*

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](http://green.maryland.gov)*

